

Appln. No. 10/024,739
Amdt. dated March 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated December 14, 2004

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 5 as follows:

According to this distance transform function, the distance data values of the boundary vessel voxels are set at a low distance data value, for example, [[e.g.]] zero. ~~[[For]]~~ The distance data values for all other voxels are initially set at a high distance data value ~~is chosen~~, for example, 127. The distance transform function then computes distance data values for each voxel. An elegant way of computing the distance data value is as follows: the distance data value for a specific voxel is defined as the minimum of the distance data value of each of the neighbors of that specific voxel plus a number, for example, one. Preferably, the distance transform function is computed once for all voxels in a certain order. Next, the distance transform is again computed for all voxels, but now in the reverse order. In order to simplify and hence shorten the computation, preferably only vessel voxels are involved in the computation. An example of the result of this computation is shown in figure 1.